

## 0000 Baby BABY Magazine

DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

00 JUN 27 PM 3:00

*Fashions**Model Agency**Resources*

95965

NHTSA 00-7580-4

April 24, 2000

Administrator  
 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
 400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Elizabeth Fisher's Petition for an amendment  
 to SEC. 571.209 Standard No. 209,  
 Seat Belt Assemblies

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
 2000 MAY -3 A 10:15  
 NATIONAL HIGHWAY  
 TRAFFIC SAFETY ADM.

Dear Administrator:

I am the publisher of a national size acceptance publication in print for five years now. Our annual readership, including Internet readers, numbers over 3,000,000 people, most all of whom are plus sized.

As a large person, all of my adult life, there have been many times I have found seat belts too short to fit me in some cars. This is very troubling and, having long ago gotten in the habit of wearing seat belts, I no longer feel safe traveling in an automobile without one.

Most automobile manufacturers have accommodated persons of size by providing seat belt extenders for belts that don't reach. American Honda and some others have steadfastly refused to provide them.

The federal regulation that requires manufacturers to make seat belts fit people only up to 215 lbs. is not adequate

1448 Fullerton Drive, Fairfield, CA 94533  
 (707) 422-6058 - Fax (707) 422-9547

Administrator, NHTSA  
April 24, 2000  
Page 2

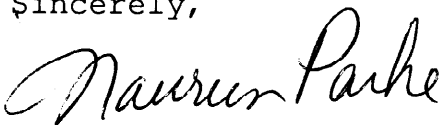
to protect a large part of the population. I urge you to support Elizabeth Fischer's petition for an amendment that will provide that all persons that are able to drive or ride in vehicles be protected.

I weigh 350 lbs. and the four-inch extenders Chrysler and Ford Motor Companies provide free of charge more than adequately allow me to have the protection of wearing a seatbelt. Persons larger than me might require a six-inch or more extension, but the principle is the same. A small, relatively inexpensive piece of equipment can save lives.

It mystifies me that any automobile manufacturer refuses to voluntarily provide for the safety of drivers and passengers and needs to have a special law or amendment to force it to provide seat belts for larger people. They do.

Therefore, I respectfully request you to help us obey the laws that do require everyone to wear seat belts, by making sure that there is a law that also requires automobile makers to provide seat belts for persons larger than 215 lbs. If a person can safely operate a vehicle or be a passenger in it, there should be a seat belt that fits them or an extender that makes it fit them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maureen Parke". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

MAUREEN H. PARKE